

**THERMAL TREATMENT OF A DRUG ELUTING  
IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE**

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**ABSTRACT**

A coating and a method of coating an implantable medical device, such as a  
15 stent, is disclosed. The method includes subjecting the coating to a thermal  
condition which can result in reduction of the rate of release of an active agent  
from the coating subsequent to the implantation of the device.